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FORDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health for 1965

COUNCIL AT 31st DECEMBER, 1965:

CHAIRMAN: Councillor T. E. Jones.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Councillor D. C. Jones.

COUNCILLORS: W. L. Bolderston,
G. H. Bowen,
J. D. Bowen,
T. P. Bowen,
T. E. Davies,
E. D. Evans,
R. T. Ferrier-Jones,
T. G. Francis,
H. A. Hambleton,
G. Lewis,
D. M. Jones,
W. W. Jones,
G. H. Parry,
E. O. Ralph,
S. G. Pritchard,
J. E. Vaughan,
W. L. Woods.

CLERK: N. O. Davies, A.C.C.S.

TREASURER: R. C. Williams.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Elinor M. Greville, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Welshpool Borough Council Offices,
Welshpool.
(District M.O.H. N.Monts).

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

H. J. Sleigh.



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To the Chairman and Members of the
Forden Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present my report for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

The statistics, on the whole, compare favourably with those for the county and the country as a whole but, with a fall in the Birth Rate we have a rise in the Illegitimacy Rate (10.1% of total births). Heart disease remains the chief cause of death, but there were not any deaths from cancer of the lung, or motor vehicle accidents.

Mr. Sleigh, the Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor comments in his report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, upon the difficulty which has been encountered in maintaining the "Model Standards" applied to the Caravan Sites. With these sites expanding as rapidly as they are we must be firm and insist on the highest practicable standards in the interest of public health.

An epidemic of Measles occurred in the second quarter of the year; and although only 4 cases of whooping cough were notified officially many children were suspected of having contacted a mild type of infection; to my knowledge, these cases were not confirmed bacteriologically. At about this time an illness presenting symptoms of a meningeal character affected different areas of the country, including Montgomeryshire, and in one village School in the Forden district most of the pupils were affected; viruses were isolated from some of these cases (known as COXSACKIE and ECHO viruses).

There were no new notifications of tuberculosis, nor were there any deaths from this cause, surely a result of the vaccination programme now carried out against this one-time scourge.

During April notice was received from a Medical Officer from another county that a carrier of sonne dysentery had been detected in her district. This man's employment was such that he came into contact with utensils used for milk which may be sold for public consumption. The Medical Officer had served a notice on him prohibiting him from carrying on his employment until such time as he be declared bacteriologically free from infection: He came to his home in Forden R.D. and there we kept him under observation for six weeks when he was proved to be free from infection and he was allowed to return to work.

About the same time we received notification from the Ministry of Agriculture that salmonella organisms had been isolated from calves on a milk-producing farm. These organisms are pathogenic to man and animals and cause food-poisoning; in this case, the danger was infection of the milk, and the farmer was warned to boil all raw milk for his own use: fortunately the milk for sale here was always directed for pasteurization, but had this not been the case regulations are inexistence empowering the Medical Officer to direct the milk for pasteurization if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it has caused disease in any person following its consumption.

May I say how much I appreciate the sympathetic consideration and help the Council give to the occasional "problem" family when it is my duty to make representations on their behalf with regard to re-housing; the Council's forbearance and patience were in at least one case justified I believe.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Sleigh for preparing the part of the report dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, and also the Clerk and his staff for their assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

Elinor M. Greville.

July, 1967.

SECTION "A"

General Statistics of the Area

Area of the district - 49774 acres.

Registrar General's mid-year estimate of resident population - 5080.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books - 1570.

Rateable Value at 31st March, 1965 - £80,530.

Sum of Penny Rate - £314.

Vital Statistics

Population

Estimated Mid-year 1965 - 5,080

Estimated Mid-year 1964 - 5,100

Estimated Mid-year 1963 - 5,060

Estimated Mid-year 1962 - 5,010

Estimated Mid-year 1961 - 5,170

These figures show a fall in the population since 1964 of 20; the 1965 live births stood at the figure of 79; since the number of deaths was 47 there was a natural increase in the population of 32.

Births and Deaths

Live Births - Total 79

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	39	32	71
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Total	...	...	...	...	45	34	79

Crude Birth Rate - 15.55 per 1,000 population (17.84 per 1,000 in 1964).

Corrected Birth Rate - 17.57 per 1,000 population (after applying the Area Comparability figure of 1.13).

Illegitimacy Rate - 10.1% of total births 4.4% in 1964).

Stillbirths - Total 1 (A male. Caused by prematurity).

Still Birth Rate - 1.3% of Live Births (NIL in 1964). The Rate for Rural Areas of Montgomeryshire is 0.5%.
Total Live and Still Births - 80.

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year) - 1 Male, under 1 week of age. The cause of death was given as "congenital malformation".

Total Infant Mortality Rate - Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births - 12.65 (22.0 in 1964).

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate - Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births - 14.08.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate - Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births - NIL.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) - 12.65.

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate - deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births - 12.65.

Perinatal Mortality Rate - Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths - 25.00.

Maternal Mortality - NIL.

Cont/over

Deaths - (All Causes) - 47.

Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1965

IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF FORDEN

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	Age in Years						75 and over
				25-	35-	45-	55-	65-		
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	
	F	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Diabetes	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	6	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hypertension With Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Other Heart Disease	M	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	
	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	
Other Circulatory Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Bronchitis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Congenital Malformations	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Defined & Ill-Defined Diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	
All Other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	26	1	1	1	2	7	5	9	
	F	21	-	2	1	-	5	3	10	
GRAND Total	M & F	47	1	3	2	2	12	8	19	

Crude Death Rate - 9.25 per 1,000 population (12.35 in 1964).

Corrected Death Rate - 7.59 per 1,000 population (after applying Comparability Factor of 0.82).

Chief Causes of Death:

1. Heart Disease - 17 (6 from coronary heart disease - all males).
2. Malignancy - 9 (no deaths from cancer of the lung).
3. Cerebro-vascular disease - 7.

Comparative Statistics (1965)

	Forden Rural District	Montg. County	England & Wales (Provision- al figures)
Birth Rate	17.57	14.95	18.1
Stillbirth Rate	1.3%	0.9%	1.57%
Illegitimacy Rate	10.1%	6.98%	-
Infant Mortality Rate (Total)	12.65	16.8	19.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate ...	12.65	-	13.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	12.65	-	13.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	25.0	-	-
Maternal Mortality Rate	NIL	-	0.25
Death Rate	7.59	12.93	11.5

ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE FIVE SANITARY AUTHORITIES
IN NORTH MONTGOMERYSHIRE (1965)

Sanitary District	Popul- ation	Birth Rate per 1000 Popul- ation	Stillbirth Rate (% of live births	Illegitimate Birth Rate (% of total births	Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	Death Rate per 1000 popul- ation	Tuberculosis death rate per million population
Llanfyllin M.B.	1,230	11.38	NIL	NIL	NIL	12.19	NIL
Montgomery M.B.	980	23.47	NIL	8.7	NIL	8.16	NIL
Welshpool M.B.	6,520	15.03	3	5.0	20.4	11.20	NIL
Llanfyllin R.D.	8,990	16.69	0.7	7.3	6.7	13.90	111*
Forden R.D.	5,080	15.55	1.3	10.1	12.7	9.25	NIL

* This was caused by one such death.

SECTION "B"

The County Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the personal health service of the district.

SECTION "C"

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

(1) Water Supplies

The Council are responsible for water supply to ten houses at Springfields and four houses at Abermule. The Montgomeryshire Water Board is responsible for supplies in the remainder of the district.

There are water mains in Berriew and Churchstoke but apart from the Council Housing sites the remainder of the district is almost entirely dependant on water from private sources and the problems of water supply are acute.

Cont/over

Samples were taken with the following results:-

Council Supplies.	7 satisfactory
	2 unsatisfactory
Board Supplies.	36 satisfactory
	7 unsatisfactory
Private Supplies.	4 satisfactory
	28 unsatisfactory

In each case of an unsatisfactory sample action was taken or advice was given.

(2) Sewerage

The Council's housing sites throughout the district have small disposal plants but apart from these the only village with sewers and a treatment plant is Berriew. The individual plants gave trouble as to purity of effluent and because of this the Council decided to employ an additional man to give the necessary maintenance. The humus tank at Llandyssil was rebuilt and repairs were made to most of the plants.

Further investigation was made by the Consulting Engineers into schemes at Churchstoke, Middletown, Llandyssil and Abermule with a view to providing an adequate sewerage system in each area when water becomes available.

(3) Rivers & Streams

With every case of improvements to existing dwellings or the erection of new dwellings an individual septic tank was provided.

(4) Public Cleansing

Refuse is collected fortnightly throughout the district and is tipped at Churchstoke and Bulthy Hill.

Cesspool emptying is done by private contractors.

(5) Caravan Sites

There are five licensed sites for holiday caravans. The model conditions are applied and a little difficulty was encountered during the year in keeping the sites to these standards. There are a number of individual caravan standings that presented no problem. No legal action was taken during the year.

(6) General

A number of inspections were made during the year but no formal action was necessary. No smoke nuisances occurred during the year.

(7) Vermin

Two rodent operatives are employed jointly with Welshpool Borough, Montgomery Borough and Llanfyllin R.D.C. This district is in an area where there are Warfarin resistant rats. Efforts were made to prevent the spread of this type of rat into adjoining areas without success. Because of this Warfarin was not used in treatments.

No. of properties inspected	93
" " " treated	45

Materials used.	Sausage rusk	361 lbs
	Oatmeal	142 lbs
	Zinc Phosphide	12 lbs
	Antu	5 lbs

SECTION "D"

Housing

No. of dwellings rendered fit as a result of informal action by the Local Authority	10
No. of dwellings built by Local Authority	2
" " " being built by Local Authority on 31st December, 1965	13
No. of dwellings built by private enterprise	16
No. of dwellings improved by Standard Grants	7
No. of Standard Grants approved during the year	6
No. of dwellings improved by Discretionary Grants	18
No. of Discretionary Grants approved during the year	20

Factories

	No. on register	Inspections	Notices
(1) Factories in which Secs 1-6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	6	-
(2) Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	17	11	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	-	-	-

No action was taken. There are no outworkers in the district.

Offices, Shop and Railway Premises Act

Registered premises:-

Offices	11
Retail Shops	3
Warehouses	1

No. of persons employed:-

Offices	24
Retail Shops	10
Warehouses	2

No. of inspections 17

No action was necessary.

SECTION "E"

Milk

There are no dairies selling milk by retail. Producer retailers are inspected by the Ministry.

Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the district. One Meat shop was inspected and found satisfactory.

Cont/over

SECTION "F"

Infectious Disease Control

During 1965 a total of 21 cases of notifiable diseases were reported, and were distributed as follows:-

Measles	...	...	17
Whooping Cough	...		4

Tuberculosis - No new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. (The Notification Rate for England and Wales is 42 per 1,000,000 population)

The Mass Radiography Unit made 14 visits to North Montgomeryshire and 282 persons were examined; of this number, 3 were found to have pulmonary abnormalities other than tuberculosis and 4 other cases were referred for further investigation at the Chest Clinic.

B.C.G. Vaccination was carried out at Welshpool and Newtown High Schools where 352 pupils were tested; 286 were found to require vaccination and presented to receive it.

Poliomyelitis - Cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the country during the year. The County Welfare Clinics continued to offer anti-poliomyelitis vaccination, to all children and adults up to 40 years age.

Virus Infection - In July and August, children from several schools in the north of the country were attacked by an illness presenting signs and symptoms of meningeal irritation; For a day or two some of these children were quite ill and in at least three instances, admission to hospital was necessary, but recovery was usually rapid and there were no sustained after effects. In several cases the causative virus was isolated from the patients. Later, adults were affected and it was evident that this illness was not peculiar to Montgomeryshire, since adjacent counties appeared to be similarly affected. The general practitioners in our area very kindly co-operated with us in obtaining specimens from these cases, thus enabling the causative agent to be isolated; this was proved to be an enterovirus.